

Pleurothallis vegrandis Luer & Dodson, sp. nov.

Fig. 65.

Ety.: From the Latin *vegrandis*, "not large," referring to the small habit.

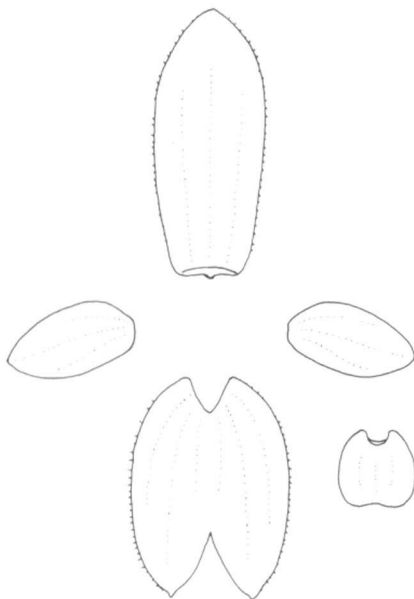
Species haec *P. laevigatae* Lindl. affinis, sed statura multiminore, racemo folio anguste oblongo brevior, spatha conspicua, sepalo dorsali oblongo-ovato obtuso trinervo, synsepalo bifurcato obtuso, petalis ellipticis concavis subacutis trinervis, labello subrotundo plano apice leviter retuso differt.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls slender, erect, 3-5 cm long, enclosed by a tubular sheath from below the middle and 2-3 loose, imbricating sheaths about the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly elliptical-oblong, subacute to obtuse, the blade 4-6 cm long, 0.8-1 cm wide, cuneate below into a petiole 0.5 cm long. **Inflorescence** a solitary (always?) raceme, densely and simultaneously few-flowered, 2.5 cm long to probably longer, subtended by a spathe 1-1.5 cm long, from an annulus adjacent to the abscission layer; floral bracts 3 mm long; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 2 mm long; **sepals** yellow, subcarinate, sparsely minutely ciliate, the dorsal sepal oblong-obovate, obtuse, concave, 7.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, 3-veined, connate to the lateral sepals for 1 mm, the lateral sepals oblong, obtuse, 6 mm long, connate 3.5 mm into a bifid lamina, each 3-veined; **petals** translucent, elliptical, concave subacute, 3.5 mm long, 2 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** yellow, fleshy, suborbicular, 2.2 mm long, 2 mm wide, the apex broadly obtuse to truncate, slightly decurved, producing a retuse appearance, the disc concave, featureless, with an obscure transverse callus above the cordate base, the base fixed to the column-foot; **column** stout, 1 mm long, the foot thick, equally long with the apex short and thick, the anther, rostellum and stigma subapical.

ECUADOR: **Zamora-Chinchi**: south of the pass between Yangana and Valladolid, alt. 2100 m, 24 July 1985, C. H. Dodson, A. Embree & D. D' Alessandro 16047 (Holotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 17205.

This small species is a dwarf member among the numerous members of the subgenus closely allied to the *P. laevigata*-complex. The leaves are small and oblong borne by ramicauls that superficially do not resemble those typically seen in the subgenus. Although small, the spathe is conspicuous. Unfortunately, the only raceme present on the single specimen appears to have been shortened either from insects, or damage in collection, but possibly not. It is only 2.5 centimeters long and bore five or six flowers.

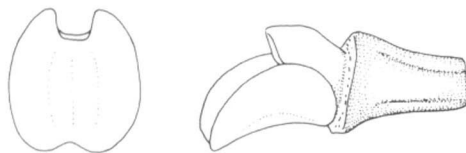
The dorsal sepal is obovate and three-veined. The obtuse lateral sepals are connate to above the middle. The elliptical petals are proportionately large, membranous and concave. The lip is suborbicular with the apex broadly retuse, and lacking the usual pair of calli.



5 mm



5 cm



3 mm